

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

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TAGS: ELAB, OVIP, JA
SUBJECT: VISIT OF AFT VICE PRESIDENT SANDRA FELDMAN

REF: TOKYO 05825

1. SINCE S/IL, EA/RA AND DOL (ILAB) MAY NOT HAVE
SEEN USICA TOKYO'S EVALUATION OF AMERICAN FEDERATION
OF TEACHERS VICE PRESIDENT SANDRA FELDMAN'S RECENT
VISIT TO JAPAN, WE ARE REPEATING IT IN FOLLOWING
PARAGRAPH.

2. SANDRA FELDMAN, VICE PRES. OF AMERICAN FEDERATION
OF TEACHERS (AFT) WAS RIGHT PERSON AT RIGHT TIME IN ICA
MISSION LABOR AFFAIRS PROGRAMMING. FALL 1976 VISIT
OF MUNICIPAL WORKERS' EXECUTIVE CROWFOOT AND LAST SUMMER'S
ICE-BREAKING ATTENDANCE AT JAPAN TEACHERS UNION (JTU)
CONVENTION BY PRESIDENT SHANKER PAVED WAY FOR HER VISIT.
PROGRAMMING HAD BACK-STAGE HELP FROM MAKIEDA, WHO HEADS
JTU AND SOHYO (LEFTIST LABOR CONFEDERATION) AND NOW
SEEKS TO COUNTER PAST SOHYO TILT TOWARD COMMUNIST-BLOC
UNIONS BY BUILDING BRIDGES TO AFL-CIO AND OTHER WESTERN
LABOR UNIONS. THIS AIDED ICA AND LABOR ATTACHE
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IMMERMAN IN PUTTING MS. FELDMAN INTO CONTACT WITH
PREVIOUSLY QUITE UNAPPROACHABLE JTU, WHICH INCLUDES
STRONGLY SOCIALIST AND COMMUNIST LEADERS. MS. FELDMAN
SHOWED SUPERLATIVE POLITICAL AWARENESS AND SENSITIVITY
AND SUCCEEDED IN CREATING FINE RAPPORT WITH ALL
AUDIENCES. IN TOKYO, SHE SPOKE WITH MIXED AUDIENCE
AT TOKYO AC, MET WITH JTU NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

AND CALLED ON HEADQUARTERS STAFFS OF JSP, DSP AND MODERATE DOMEI LABOR FEDERATION. IN SAPPORO AND NAGOYA, LOCAL OFFICIALS OF JTU -- NEVER BEFORE SEEN IN AMERICAN CENTERS -- SERVED AS OUR PROGRAM MODERATORS. IN ONE OF HER GOOD SESSIONS IN KYOTO, MRS. FELDMAN TOOK SUGGESTION FROM SOHYO OFFICIAL THAT U.S. UNIONS JOIN JAPANESE IN DEMANDING ABOLITION OF NUCLEAR ARMS, AND TURNED IT AROUND WITH HER OWN WARNING AGAINST BUYING UNILATERAL DISARMAMENT IDEA AND SUGGESTING THAT MEMBERS OF FREE LABOR UNIONS WORK WITH U.S. UNIONS TO FOSTER FREE LABOR MOVEMENT IN NATIONS NOW LACKING ONE. OSAKA AC REPORTED JTU MEMBERS ARRIVED QUITE SULLEN FOR PROGRAM THERE BUT WERE WARMED BY MS. FELDMAN INTO "VERY FRIENDLY" MOOD BY TIME PROGRAM ENDED. BPAO REPORTED "AUDIENCE WAS ALMOST FIGHTING EACH OTHER TO ASK NEXT QUESTION." MOST AC'S REPORTED UNPRECEDENTED BREAKTHROUGH TO PREVIOUSLY HOSTILE JTU AS RESULT OF OPPORTUNITY TO PROGRAM MS. FELDMAN.

3. BELIEVE YOU MAY WISH TO BRING ABOVE TO ATTENTION OF AFT PRESIDENT SHANKER AND EXPRESS TO HIM EMBASSY'S HOPE THAT HE CAN HELP TO ENCOURAGE FURTHER THIS SIGNIFICANT SHIFT IN NIKKYOSO'S ATTITUDES TOWARDS U.S. BY AUTHORIZING OTHER AFT OFFICERS TO VISIT JAPAN FOR MEETINGS WITH NIKKYOSO. MANSFIELD

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